AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A device for controlling an exposure of an electronic camera, said camera being mounted on an electronic apparatus having a display and the camera being capable of setting a photographing direction to at least a forward or a rearward direction of the electronic camera, said device comprising:

exposure detecting means for generating exposure detection information indicative of the average magnitude of said video signals of a photographed image based on video signals generated by the electronic camera;

exposure adjusting means for adjusting the exposure of the electronic camera based on said exposure detection information generated by said exposure detecting means;

camera support means for rotating the electronic camera in a plane perpendicular to and in a plane that vertically extends from the display of the electronic apparatus;

photographing direction detecting means for outputting a corresponding direction detection signal when the photographing direction of the electronic camera is set to the rearward direction,

wherein the exposure detecting means logically divides one photographed image according to first and second patterns, and in the division by said first pattern, divides said photographed image into an upper area and a lower area to generate first exposure detection information relatively strongly reflecting the magnitude of said video signal corresponding to said lower area; and in the division by said second pattern, divides the photographed image into a central area and a peripheral area to generate second exposure detection information relatively strongly reflecting the magnitude of the video signal corresponding to said central area,

wherein the camera support means are located on ~~a first end and a second~~ an end of the electronic camera,

wherein said photographing detecting means is adjacent to the electronic support means located on ~~a first~~ the end of the electronic camera,

said exposure adjusting means adjusts the exposure of the electronic camera on the basis of said first exposure detection information when said photographing direction detecting means outputs said direction detection signal,

wherein the exposure adjusting means adjusts the exposure of the electronic camera on the basis of said second exposure detection information when the photographing direction detecting means does not output a direction detection signal,

wherein the photographing direction detecting means outputs the direction detection signal only when the photographing direction is rotated on the camera support means in a range of θb, and

wherein ~~θb is a range from 30° on a front side of the electronic apparatus to 105° on a rear side of the electronic apparatus~~ the photographing direction is in the range of θb when it is more than about 60 degrees away from the front of the screen.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the exposure detecting means includes: an area-integration circuit for integrating the corresponding video signals for each area obtained by dividing according to the first and second patterns; and weighting-adding means for multiplying integration results for the respective areas, which are outputted from said area-integration circuit, by weights for the areas, and adding respective products to set addition results as said first and second exposure detection information.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the upper area in the division by the first pattern is an upper area about 1/4 that of the photographed image.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the central area in the division by the second pattern has a substantially rectangular form, the height thereof is about ½ that of the photographed image, and the width thereof is about 1/3 that of the photographed image.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic camera includes a solid-state image sensing device as an image pickup device.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 5, where said solid-stage image sensing device includes a CCD or a CMOS sensor.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic camera is a video camera or a digital still camera.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 5, wherein the exposure adjusting means controls an electronic shutter of the electronic camera to adjust the exposure.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, further comprising a variable gain amplifier circuit which receives the video signal generated by the electronic camera as an input, and wherein the exposure adjusting means controls a gain of said variable gain amplifier circuit to adjust the exposure.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic camera is built into the electronic apparatus.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic camera is detachable from the electronic apparatus.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic apparatus is a portable information terminal.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic apparatus is a personal computer or PDA.